

For More Information

usaswimming.org/protect
or contact

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Athlete Protection Officer

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**FOSTERING A SAFE AND
POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT**

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FOSTERING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT









At USA Swimming, we believe that all members should have the opportunity to participate and compete in a safe and healthy environment.

We can provide the best possible experience for our nearly 300,000 athletes and 12,000 coaches by encouraging all of our independent clubs to pay close attention to and follow USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Programming.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these action steps so that your club can be as safe and healthy as it can be.

WHAT CAN MY CLUB DO?

-  **Follow USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Policies**
USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Policies are mandatory for all members. Communicate these policies to your athletes, staff, parents and volunteers.
-  **Abide by USA Swimming's Best Practice Guidelines**
USA Swimming also offers "Best Practice Guidelines" for establishing healthy boundaries between adults and athletes. Become familiar with these Guidelines and be diligent in making sure your club follows them.

-  **Complete Your Pre-Employment Screening**
Hiring individuals who will interact with athletes is a serious responsibility. Clubs are required to complete pre-employment screening on all new employees who have frequent and direct contact with athletes. These screens must be conducted through a USA Swimming-recommended provider starting Aug.31, 2011.
-  **Complete Your Education Requirements**
Athlete Protection Education will be required of all non-athlete members before registration for the 2012 registration year. These courses will be available online beginning in 2011.
-  **Educate Your Members**
USA Swimming will begin offering Athlete Protection Education to athletes and parents at no cost beginning in the spring of 2011. While education is optional for athletes and parents, you should encourage all of your members to become educated on this important topic.
-  **If in Doubt, Report**
If you suspect abuse, or have specific and credible information about inappropriate behavior, it is your duty as a member of USA Swimming to report to USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Officer. You can report one of three ways:
 - 1** Online at www.usaswimming.org/report
 - 2** Via email to swoessner@usaswimming.org
 - 3** Via phone at **719-866-3589**

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